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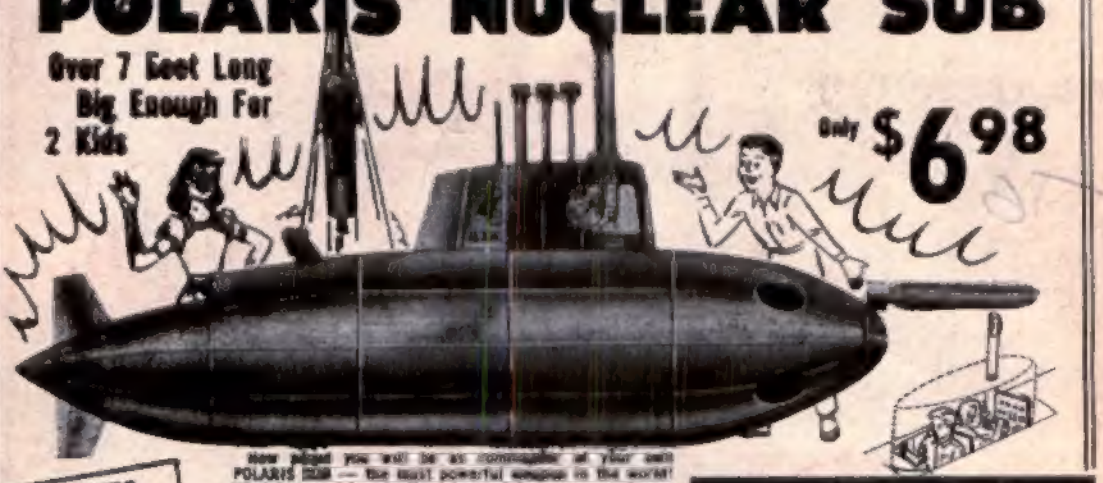

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COME IN, WON'T YOU... COME INTO MY
"HOUSE OF SPIDERS"
WHERE THE FURRY LITTLE CREATURES SCAMPERING ABOUT ARE FAR NICER THAN THE SUPPOSEDLY HUMAN CREATURES YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED IN THE BACKGROUND... HEH, HEH, HEH...
YOU SEE THAT CHAP ON THE OPERATING TABLE? HE WORKED ON IT A LONG TIME BEFORE HE LEARNED...
"THE SURGEON MUST ALSO DIE"
TAKE NOTE OF THAT DRIP COMING IN THE DOOR! HE SEEMS TO BE SEARCHING FOR A LIFEBOAT SO HE WON'T HAVE TO...
"PAY THE PRICE... TWICE!"

GHOSTLY TALES Vol. 4, 74, July, 1969

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The Surgeon Must Also Die

DO NOT BE SHOCKED, MY FIENDS... (HE MEANS FRIENDS MAYBE?) THIS GENTLEMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND A MEMBER OF GOOD STANDING OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IS **NEITHER**. HE IS A CHARLATAN, A MEDICAL SCHOOL FLUNK-OUT... WHO HAS STOLEN THE IDENTIFICATION OF A QUALIFIED MAN AND SET UP SHOP HERE IN A CALIFORNIA CITY WHERE HE PRACTICES HIS KIND OF MONEY GRUBBING MEDICINE. AT THE MOMENT, HE IS OPERATING... AND **WHOOPS!** HIS KNIFE SLIPPED SEVERING THE OLIGOOK FROM THE SIBIWIFFLE WHICH IS OFTEN FATAL!

YOU CLUMSY **BUTCHER** ...THE **PATIENT** DIED!

HE WOULD'VE DIED ANYHOW, DR. SMITH... AND WATCH YOUR TONGUE OR YOU MIGHT COME DOWN WITH SOMETHING FATAL!

HEH HEH. DR. VANDELL HAS A VERY PLEASANT BEDSIDE MANNER... BUT IT IS HIS **ONLY** QUALIFICATION. IN THIS CASE, HE OPERATED FOR A RUPTURED APPENDIX... WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED SOME **TWENTY YEARS AGO!** HEH, HEH, HEH!

DR. VANDELL **ALWAYS** GETS HIS VIC... PATIENTS... TO PAY HIS FEE IN ADVANCE.

B-1957

GREGORY VANDELL EARLY INDICATED WHICH DIRECTION HIS SPECIALTY WOULD TAKE WHEN FAMED DIAGNOSTICIAN DR. LUFF ADDRESSED HIS SECOND YEAR MEDICAL CLASS.
NOW, ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE? YES, MR. VANDELL?
HOW MUCH CAN A SMART OPERATOR SQUEEZE OUT OF HIS PRACTICE A YEAR, DOC? I MEAN WE ALL KNOW WE'RE IN IT FOR THE LOOT!
HOW DARE YOU!
HIS INTEREST WAS ALWAYS IN MATERIAL THINGS. MEDICINE TO HIM WAS A SOURCE OF QUICK INCOME...
VANDELL, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D DO BETTER IN A BUSINESS COURSE... OR PERHAPS APPRENTICED TO SOME LOCAL PETTY RACKETEER?
A LICENSED DOCTOR ISN'T A PETTY RACKETEER! DOCTORS MAKE OUT BETTER THAN BANK-ROBBERS THESE DAYS.
STOCK MARKET
AND HE BURIES HIS MISTAKES!
HEH, HEH, HEH! NO DRUDGERY FOR GREGORY VANDELL. HE'S GOT HIS BRAINY ROOMIE DOING HIS WORK FOR HIM. HEH, HEH, HEH! AFTER ALL... WHY NOT?

WATCH IT! LOOKS LIKE THEY FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH VANDELL!
I'LL SEE THAT YOU ARE BARRED FROM EVERY MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY, YOU SCOUNDREL!
MEDICAL BUILDING
HE'S LEAVING NOW... IN THE DEAD (NICE WORD, ISN'T IT?) OF NIGHT CAN IT BE POSSIBLE VANDELL IS ASHAMED? OR DOES HE HAVE ANOTHER REASON. LET US SLINK ALONG WITH HIM AND SEE WHAT IT IS...
I'LL SHOW THEM THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WRECK MY PLANS!
WHAT DOES VANDELL WANT HERE? HE'S GOT PAPERS... WHAT FOR?
HE'S GOT A DOZEN DIPLOMAS FOR EVERYTHING ANY DOCTOR COULD POSSIBLY WANT TO FRAME AND HANG ON HIS WALL!
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MEDICAL SCHOOL

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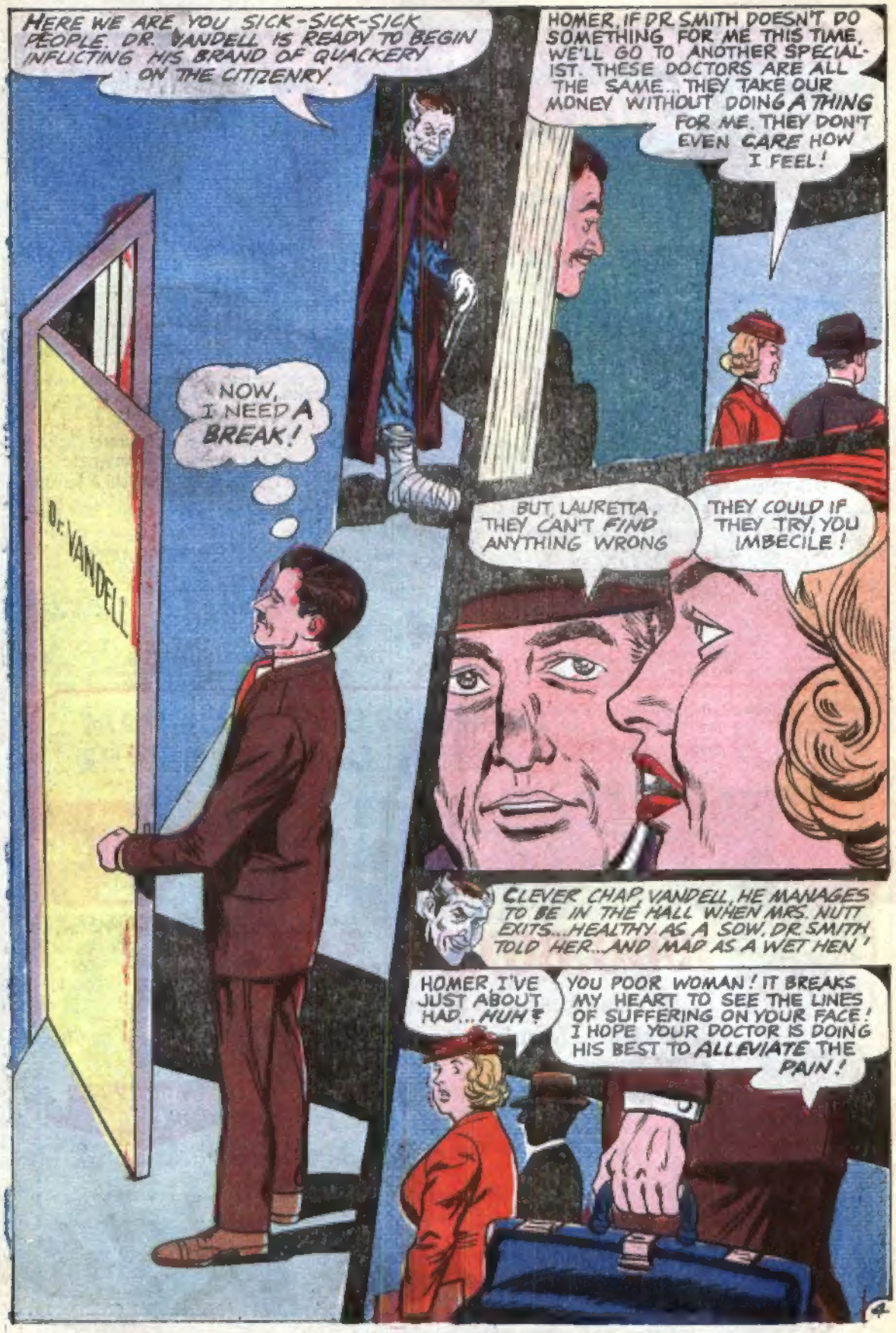
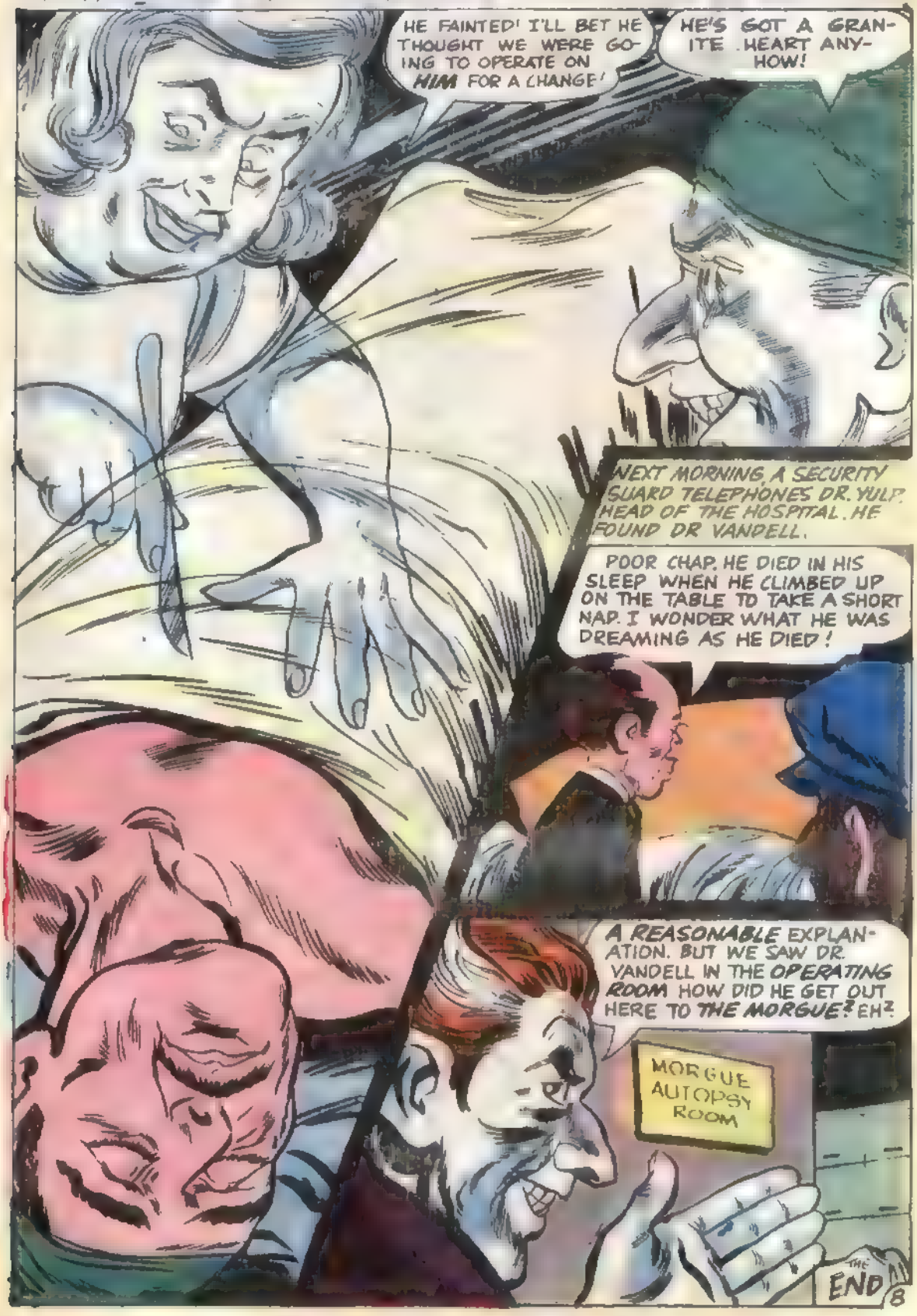

HERE WE ARE, YOU SICK-SICK-SICK PEOPLE. DR. VANDELL IS READY TO BEGIN INFLICTING HIS BRAND OF QUACKERY ON THE CITIZENRY.
HOMER, IF DR. SMITH DOESN'T DO SOMETHING FOR ME THIS TIME, WE'LL GO TO ANOTHER SPECIALIST. THESE DOCTORS ARE ALL THE SAME... THEY TAKE OUR MONEY WITHOUT DOING A THING FOR ME. THEY DON'T EVEN CARE HOW I FEEL!
NOW, I NEED A BREAK!
Dr. VANDELL
BUT LAURETTA, THEY CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG
THEY COULD IF THEY TRY, YOU IMBECILE!
CLEVER CHAP, VANDELL, HE MANAGES TO BE IN THE HALL WHEN MRS. NUTT EXITS... HEALTHY AS A SOW, DR. SMITH TOLD HER... AND MAD AS A WET HEN!
HOMER, I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD... HUH?
YOU POOR WOMAN! IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE THE LINES OF SUFFERING ON YOUR FACE! I HOPE YOUR DOCTOR IS DOING HIS BEST TO ALLEVIATE THE PAIN!
4

DEAREST, DR. SMITH IS A COMPETENT MAN AND...
STEP INSIDE, MRS. NUTT. I'LL GIVE YOU A THOROUGH EXAMINATION...
DE-LOCALITIS! HMMM. CAN'T FIND IT IN THIS MEDICAL DICTIONARY.
I FEEL MUCH BETTER ALREADY, DR. VANDELL. MAY I SEND EVVIE BLUECHIPPZ TO YOU? SHE'S GOT A TERRIBLE CASE OF SOMETHING!
THEN...
I'VE DISCOVERED THAT YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM DELOCALITIS...THESE PILLS WILL LESSEN THE PAIN, MY DEAR LADY. ONCE YOU'RE FEELING YOURSELF AGAIN, YOUR LOVELINESS WILL ONCE MORE SHOW ITSELF TO THE WORLD.
IF SHE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS, DEAR LADY...SHE'S MORE THAN WELCOME.
OHHH. SEND ME YOUR BILL, DOCTOR.
THIS MAN'S AFFRONTERY IS UNBOUNDED. HE'S ACTUALLY OPERATING ON A FELLOW WHOSE DOCTOR GAVE HIM UP FOR DEAD (NOT ME, YOU LOUTS!) ALREADY!
HE GAVE ME HIS PERSONAL CHECK YESTERDAY... I CHARGED HIM AN ENORMOUS FEE!

WILL YOU STOP JOSTLING ME, YOU LOUT? IF I LOSE HIM, YOU'LL BE TO BLAME!
INCOMPETENT ASSISTANTS. HOW IS A GENIUS TO FUNCTION WHEN SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS? I'LL REPORT ALL OF YOU TO THE MEDICAL BOARD.
I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO DO.
THE FOOLS! NOT ONE OF THEM HAS HAD THE TEMERITY TO CHALLENGE MY RIGHT TO GO ON FLEECING HUMANKIND! ONE THOUSAND, TWO THOU... THEY'VE TAKEN ME AT FACE VALUE!
HE KILLED YOU, DEAREST. YOU DIED BELIEVING IN HIM BUT HIS MEDICINES WERE FATAL! WHAT? I KNOW HE SHOULD BE PUNISHED. BUT WHO WILL DO IT?
DR. VANDELL LIVES UP THERE NOW... UNBOTHERED BY THE HARM HE'S DONE... REVELING IN THE RICHES HIS AVARICIOUS GREED HAS BROUGHT.
WE MUST BE AVENGED.

I'VE ACHIEVED MY GOALS I'M WEALTHY THEY HAVEN'T STOPPED ME! I'VE HAD THIS WEIRD FEELING LATELY..AS THOUGH I'M NEVER ALONE WHEN I LOOK OUT THE WINDOW..I IMAGINE I SEE SHADOWS STANDING IN THE GARDEN
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?
YOU'VE GOT A PAIN, DR VANDELL YOU NEED AN OPERATION!
THE PAIN IS WORSE GREGORY VANDELL! GO TO THE HOSPITAL! GET IT OPERATED ON!
I MUST PREPARE QUICKLY
YOU'RE WANTED IN SURGERY, DR VANDELL.
YES, YES; I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
RING
THE PHONE.
7


THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT, "DR VANDELL... BUT IN A WAY, IT'S THE SAME. THEY AREN'T QUALIFIED SURGEONS EITHER.. BUT THEY'RE READY TO BEGIN.
HE FAINTED! I'LL BET HE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO OPERATE ON HIM FOR A CHANGE!
HE'S GOT A GRANITE HEART ANYHOW!
NEXT MORNING, A SECURITY GUARD TELEPHONES DR. YULP, HEAD OF THE HOSPITAL. HE FOUND DR VANDELL.
POOR CHAP. HE DIED IN HIS SLEEP WHEN HE CLIMBED UP ON THE TABLE TO TAKE A SHORT NAP. I WONDER WHAT HE WAS DREAMING AS HE DIED!
A REASONABLE EXPLANATION. BUT WE SAW DR. VANDELL IN THE OPERATING ROOM HOW DID HE GET OUT HERE TO THE MORGUE? EH?
MORGUE AUTOPSY ROOM
THE END
8

GHOST OR NO GHOST?

Some people will tell you that my hobby consists of studying cases of Haunted Houses Others use a more dignified expression and say that I am a famous researcher whose specialty consists of looking for data concerning ghosts and old houses. And there are others who think I am wasting a lot of time but I can afford it because I am wealthy. I will admit that without money I could not indulge my fancy And at times I am very well paid for my work If I hear about a haunted house any place in the world, I will go there to investigate.

So my work, or hobby, has taken me to Mongolia, France, Mexico, England and Japan as well as right here in the United States. And I am at present writing a book on the subject. If a house is said to be haunted, then there must be some kind of a basis or an explanation of this occurrence. Ghosts do not just come out of the thin air — no pun is meant by this There must be a solid reason or reasons to explain why there are ghosts and also why they haunt houses.

I wasn't exactly surprised when Inspector John McGill, of the Homicide Squad called me on the phone.

"Justine Sealy is going to hold a special seance in her Haunted House. I will call for you in twenty minutes and fill you in on details. Concerns the Alpert Case."

His car arrived one minute ahead of time, and soon we were on our way to the Haunted House. It had been built in the era when the Dutch had colonized New York. Justine Sealy was a famous medium who claimed to be able to bring back the ghosts of people. She had contacted Inspector John McGill about the Alpert Case

"Frank Alpert and Jim Gordon were partners," explained the Inspector. "Two months ago they went on a hunting trip. They had a guide. A stray bullet fired from some hunter's gun killed Frank Alpert. That was the coroner's verdict And strange as it seems, Jim Gordon has agreed to be present. I don't know what this is all about. Just be alert."

We arrived at that old gloomy house. Inside we found a table where we soon were seated Just the four of us — myself, the Inspector, Jim Gordon, and the medium

"We all hold hands," she said "And never break the spirit link I know an important message is coming through from the other world."

The lights grew dimmer and dimmer Then a peculiar blue light began to shine And suddenly it changed into the person of a Ghost "

"Are you the Ghost of Frank Alpert?" demanded the medium

"I am," was the reply. "I have something very important to tell my former partner. I know he is present."

"Then speak," continued the medium. "We all await what you have to tell us."

"I was murdered," began the ghost. "Foully and deliberately planned. I want my friend and partner to avenge my death. The treasurer Lewis Donalson, has been stealing for years from us. I suspected this, and talked to him He killed me. That is all."

The lights went on. We could see how pale the medium was. Her eyes were closed. When she opened them she asked what had taken place. We told her One thing was definite — Jim Gordon said that the voice was either that of his deceased partner — or a perfect imitation. Then he added he would have accountants come in and double check everything.

Now let me tell you just what happened. Lewis Donalson had been stealing. And later, with a warrant issued by a judge, a complete search was made of his home. A high power rifle with telescopic sights was found. A test bullet fired from it matched the one taken from the body of Frank Alpert. So he confessed and admitted the stealing and the murder. Inspector John McGill confronted me alone in his office with just one short question:

"Ghost or no Ghost?"

"Can't satisfactorily answer," I sadly admitted. "Maybe she is a very clever woman Figured out the killing was deliberate. And took a stab in the dark that somebody did it to hush things up. And that somebody must have been stealing funds. Or, maybe, she really did produce the ghost who talked One thing is certain. You did have her help you solve the crime."

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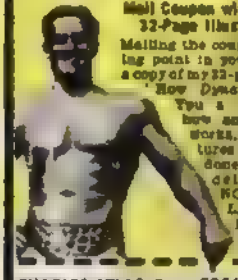

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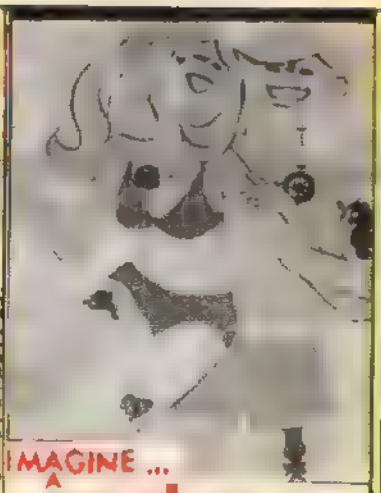

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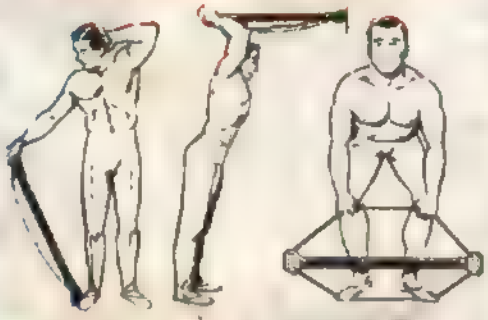

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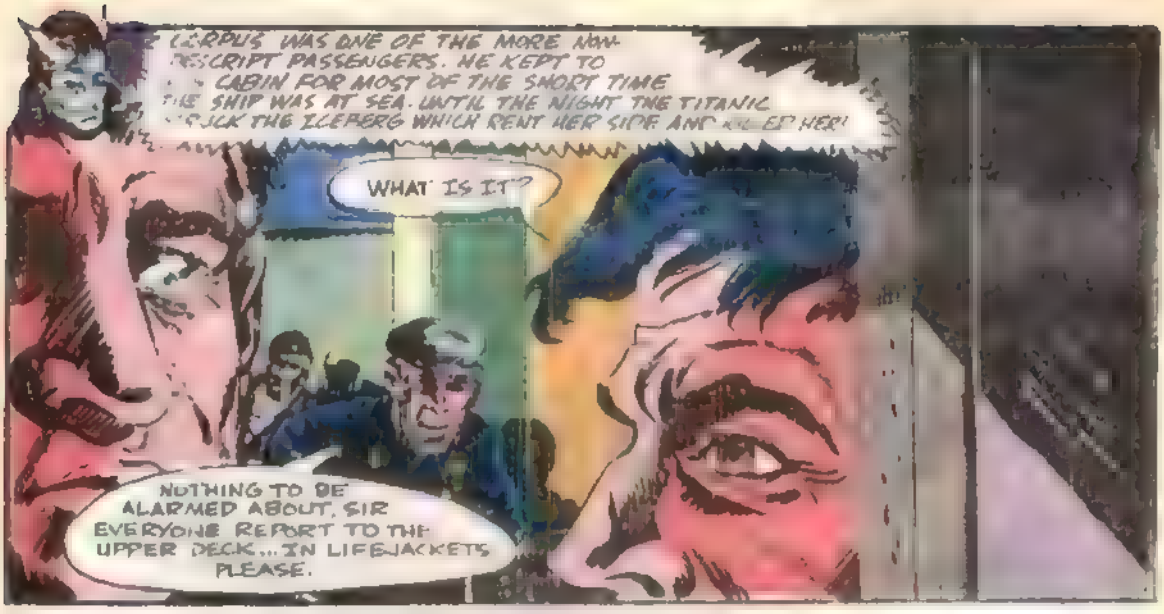
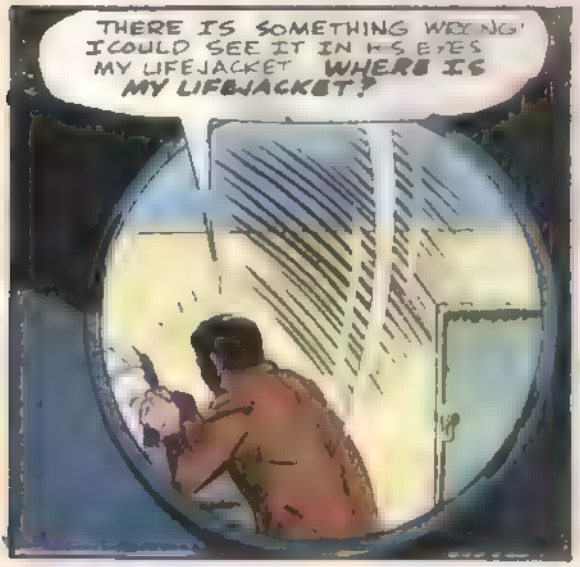
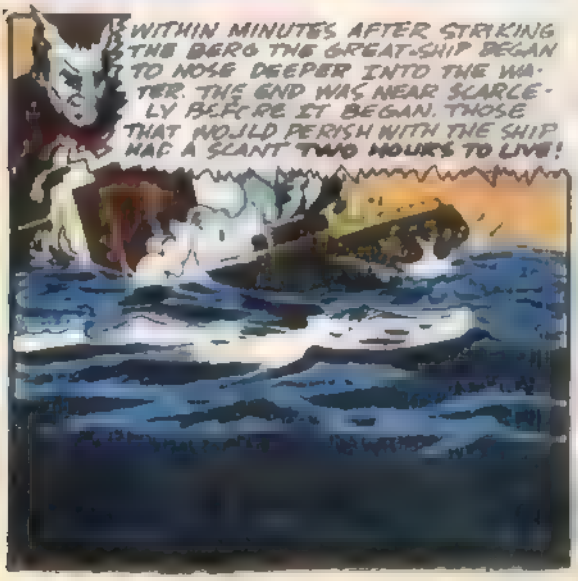
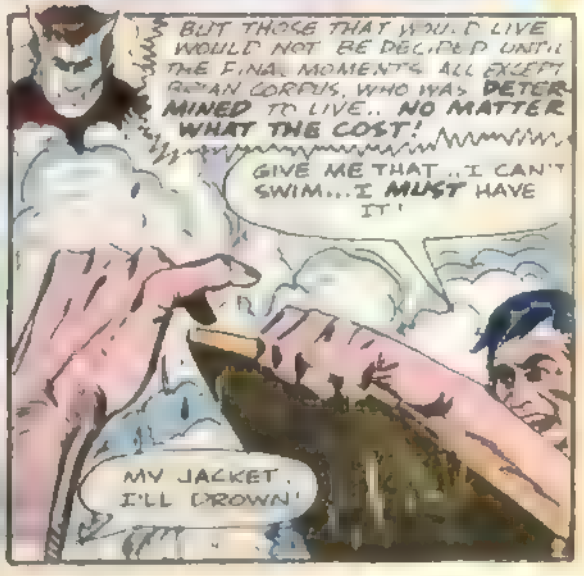
ON APRIL 15 1912, THE LARGEST SHIP OF ITS TIME, THE TITANIC, WAS ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE FROM SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND, TO NEW YORK..
OOOOOO! SAVE US... PLEASE... SAVE US!
WHOOOOSSSHHHH
MY WIFE! WHERE IS MY WIFE?
RUMMBLE
WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN, AT THE SCENE OF A NEW DISASTER, AND THE BEGINNING OF ONE OF THE STRANGER TALES IN MY ENTIRE BLACK BAG OF GHOSTLY TALES. NOBODY COULD REALLY SAY THAT THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC WAS A RUN OF THE MILL TRAGEDY. IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST SEA ACCIDENTS ON RECORD! BUT WHAT MAKES IT DOUBLY TRAGIC IS AS THE CAMERA ARDLY REVEALS, IT'S BEHAVIOR OF ONE OF ITS PASSENGERS... LOOK! THAT'S HIM, OVER THERE.
RON THE BOAT... GET US OUT OF HERE... THOSE PEOPLE... THEY'LL TIP US OVER!
CASTIGLIA
A. LASCIA

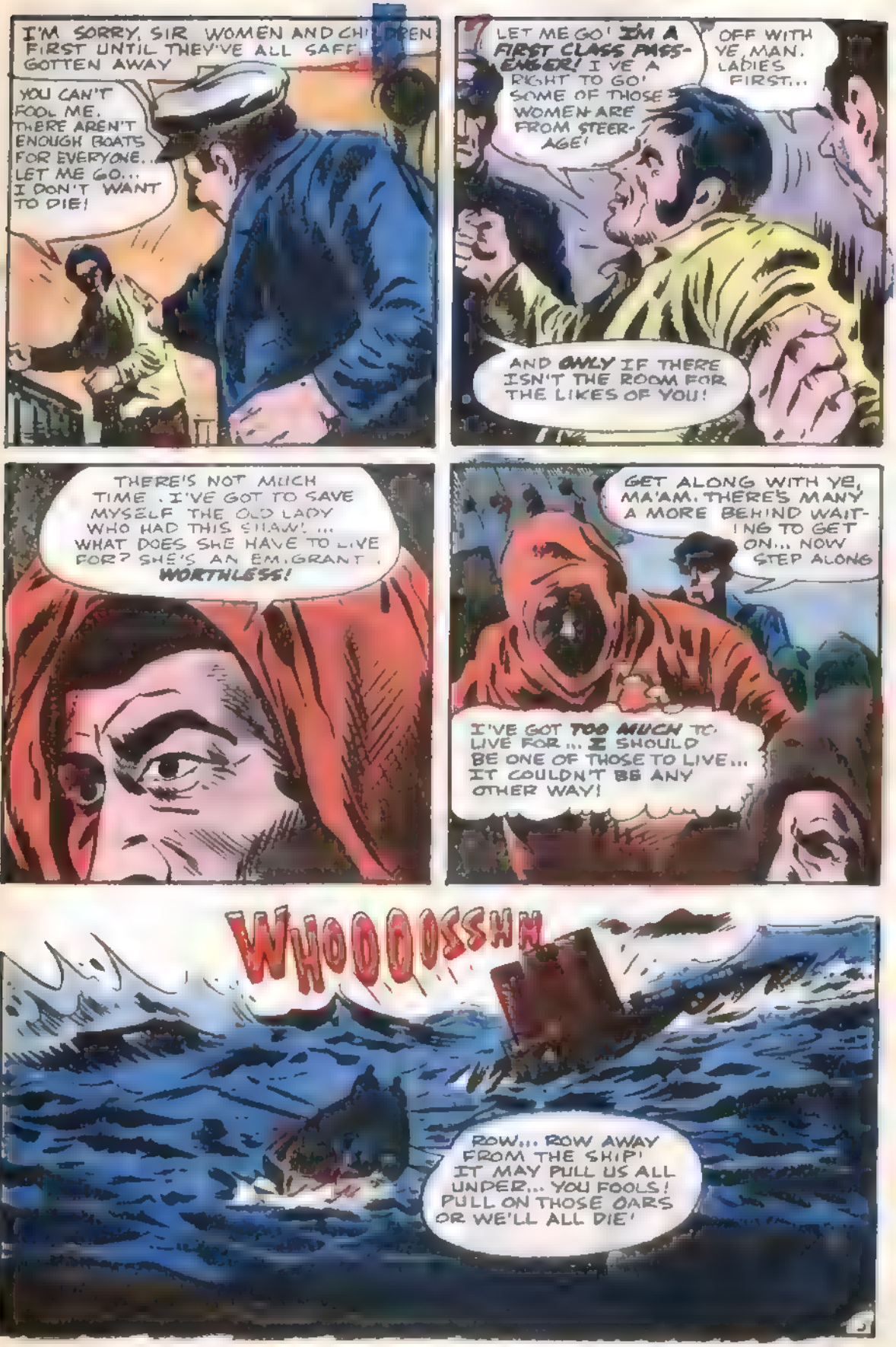

CORPUS WAS ONE OF THE MORE NON-DESCRIPT PASSENGERS. HE KEPT TO CABIN FOR MOST OF THE SHORT TIME THE SHIP WAS AT SEA. UNTIL THE NIGHT THE TITANIC STRUCK THE ICEBERG WHICH RENT HER SIDE AND KILLED HER!
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, SIR EVERYONE REPORT TO THE UPPER DECK...IN LIFEJACKETS PLEASE.


THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG! I COULD SEE IT IN HIS EYES MY LIFEJACKET WHERE IS MY LIFEJACKET?

GET OUT OF MY WAY CAN'T YOU SEE THE SHIP IS SINKING GET OUT OF MY WAY I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE GOT TO GET A LIFEJACKET!
I SAY, WE ARE ALL GOING THAT WAY YOU KNOW
BEASTLY BEHAVIOR. OBVIOUSLY NOT BRITISH
OH!

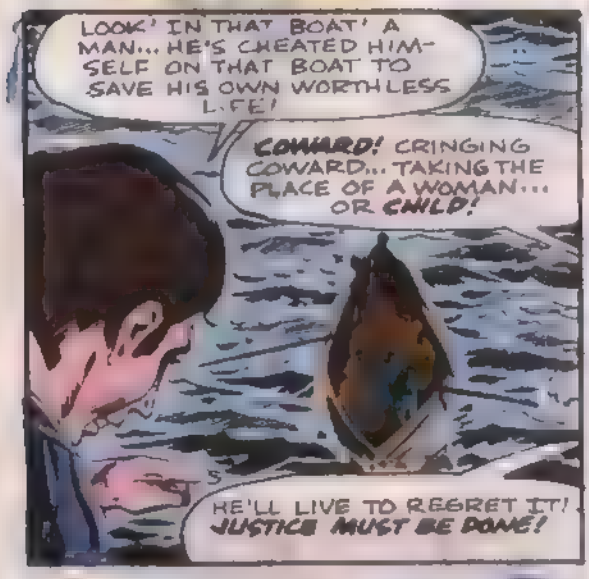

WITHIN MINUTES AFTER STRIKING THE BERG THE GREAT SHIP BEGAN TO NOSE DEEPER INTO THE WATER. THE END WAS NEAR SCARCELY BEFORE IT BEGAN. THOSE THAT WOULD PERISH WITH THE SHIP HAD A SCANT TWO HOURS TO LIVE!

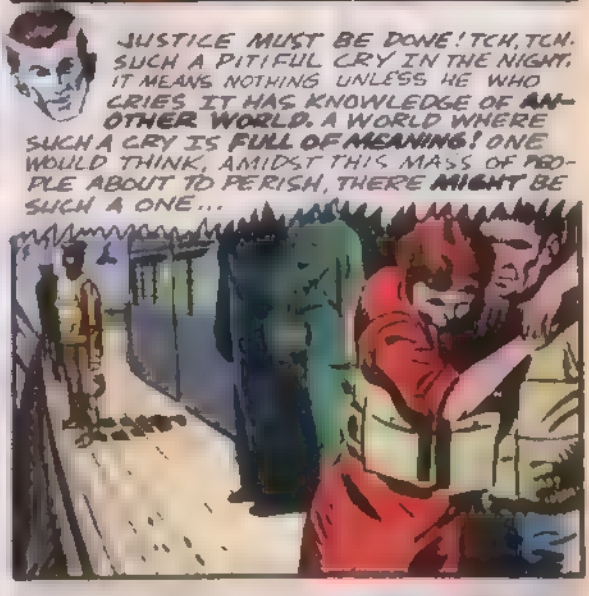

BUT THOSE THAT WOULD LIVE WOULD NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENTS ALL EXCEPT BRIAN CORPUS, WHO WAS PREDETERMINED TO LIVE.. NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!
GIVE ME THAT..I CAN'T SWIM...I MUST HAVE IT!
MY JACKET, I'LL DROWN!


I'M SORRY, SIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST UNTIL THEY'VE ALL SAFELY GOTTEN AWAY
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH BOATS FOR EVERYONE... LET ME GO... I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
LET ME GO! I'M A FIRST CLASS PASSENGER! I'VE A RIGHT TO GO! SOME OF THOSE WOMEN ARE FROM STEERAGE!
OFF WITH YE, MAN. LADIES FIRST...
AND ONLY IF THERE ISN'T THE ROOM FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME. I'VE GOT TO SAVE MYSELF THE OLD LADY WHO HAD THIS SHAWL ... WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO LIVE FOR? SHE'S AN EMIGRANT. WORTHLESS!
GET ALONG WITH YE, MA'AM. THERE'S MANY A MORE BEHIND WAITING TO GET ON... NOW STEP ALONG
I'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR... I SHOULD BE ONE OF THOSE TO LIVE... IT COULDN'T BE ANY OTHER WAY!
WHOOOOSSHH
ROW... ROW AWAY FROM THE SHIP! IT MAY PULL US ALL UNDER... YOU FOOLS! PULL ON THOSE OARS OR WE'LL ALL DIE!

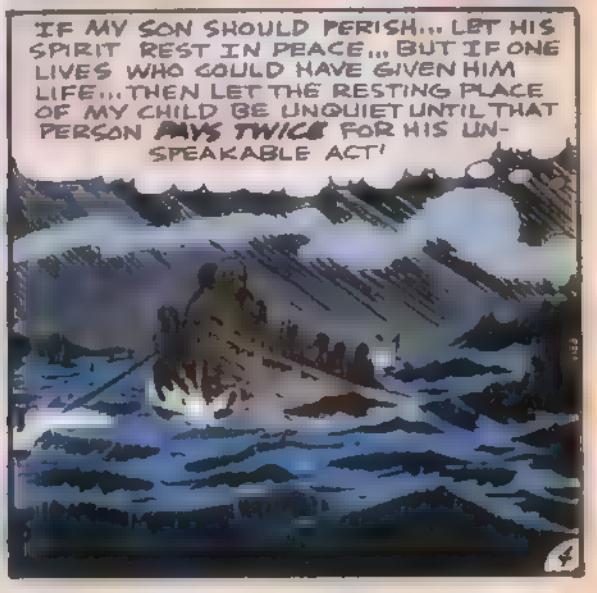
IT'S A MAN!

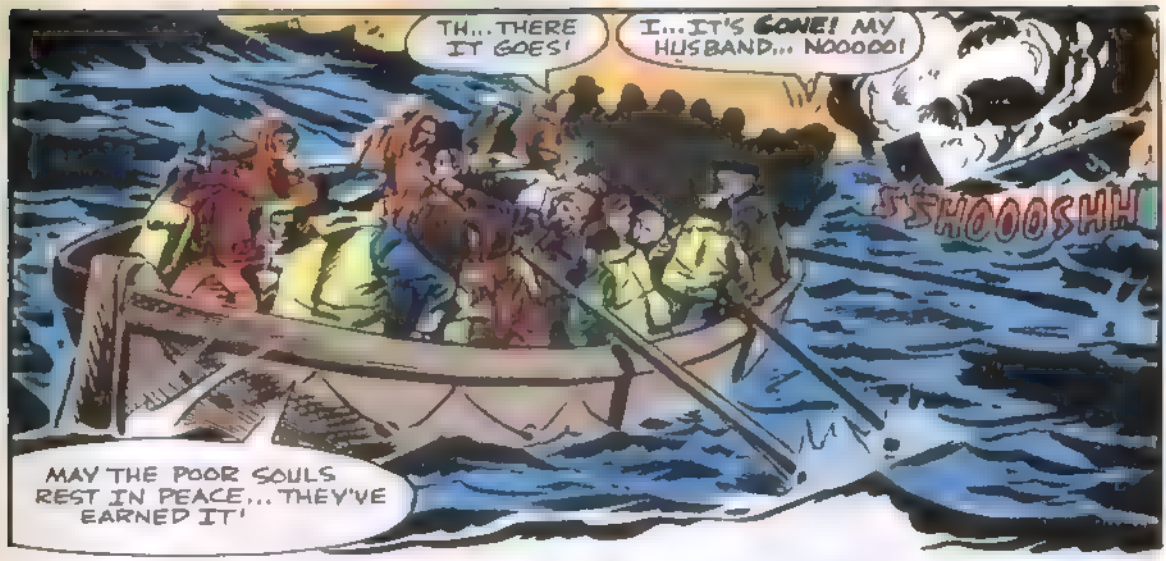
COWARD!
HE STOLE CLOTHES TO DISGUISE HIMSELF!
HE'S TAKEN ANOTHER'S PLACE!

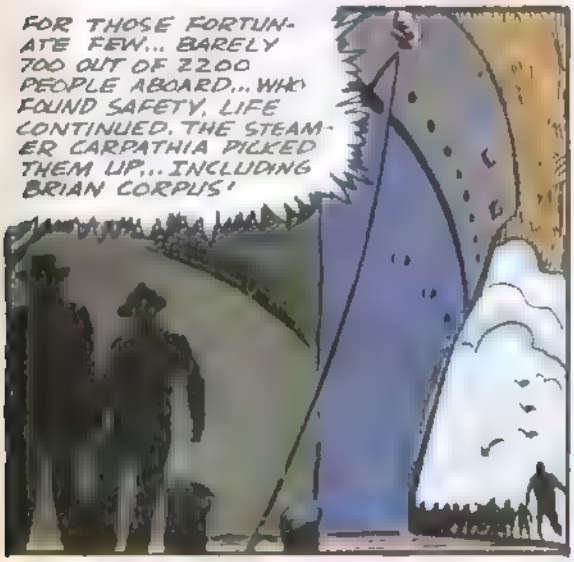

LOOK! IN THAT BOAT! A MAN... HE'S CHEATED HIMSELF ON THAT BOAT TO SAVE HIS OWN WORTHLESS LIFE!
COWARD! CRINGING COWARD... TAKING THE PLACE OF A WOMAN... OR CHILD!
HE'LL LIVE TO REGRET IT! JUSTICE MUST BE DONE!


JUSTICE MUST BE DONE! TCH, TCH. SUCH A PITIFUL CRY IN THE NIGHT. IT MEANS NOTHING UNLESS HE WHO CRIES IT HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER WORLD. A WORLD WHERE SUCH A CRY IS FULL OF MEANING! ONE WOULD THINK, AMIDST THIS MASS OF PEOPLE ABOUT TO PERISH, THERE MIGHT BE SUCH A ONE...

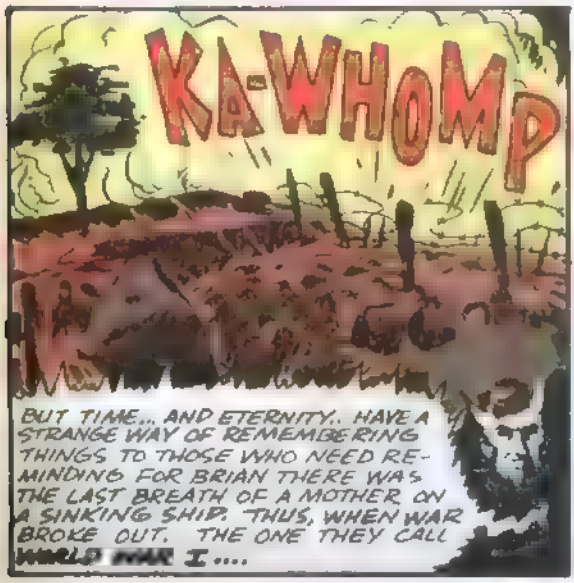
AND THERE IS!


IF MY SON SHOULD PERISH... LET HIS SPIRIT REST IN PEACE... BUT IF ONE LIVES WHO COULD HAVE GIVEN HIM LIFE... THEN LET THE RESTING PLACE OF MY CHILD BE UNQUIET UNTIL THAT PERSON PAYS TWICE FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE ACT!


TH...THERE IT GOES!
I...IT'S GONE! MY HUSBAND... NOOOOO!
SSHOOOSHH
MAY THE POOR SOULS REST IN PEACE... THEY'VE EARNED IT!

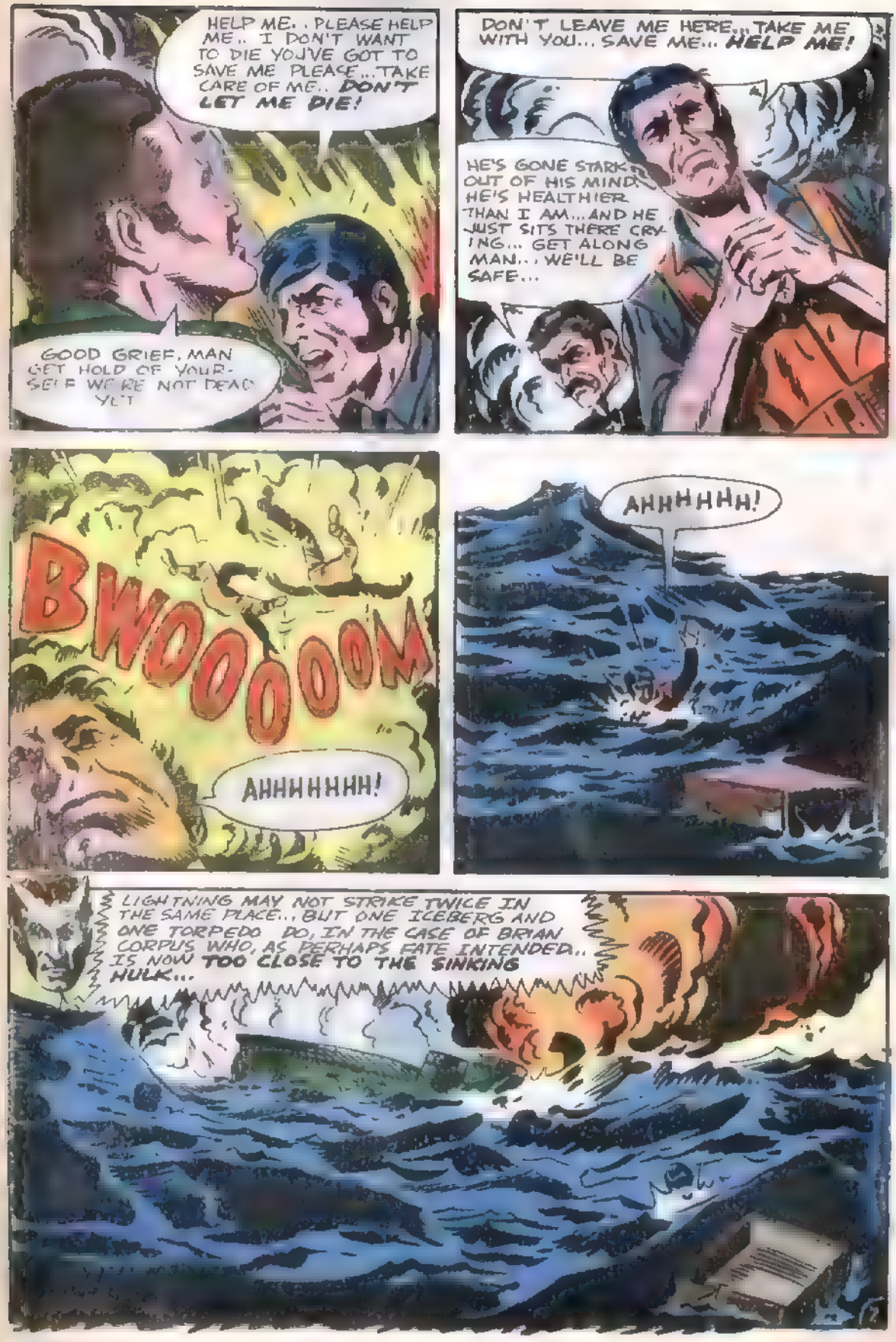

FOR THOSE FORTUNATE FEW... BARELY 700 OUT OF 2200 PEOPLE ABOARD... WHO FOUND SAFETY, LIFE CONTINUED. THE STEAMER CARPATHIA PICKED THEM UP... INCLUDING BRIAN CORPUS!

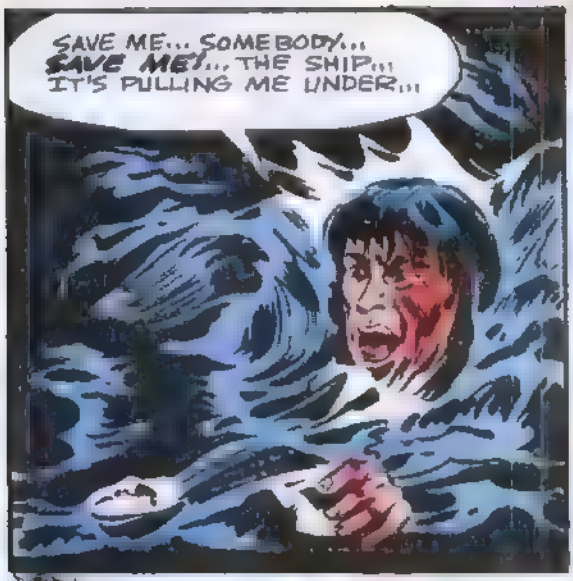
BRIAN CORPUS DISAPPEARED SOON AFTER ARRIVING IN NEW YORK, THOUGH MANY SURVIVORS TOLD THEIR STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN.. BRIAN CORPUS NEVER VOLUNTEERED HIS OWN SPECIAL STORY.

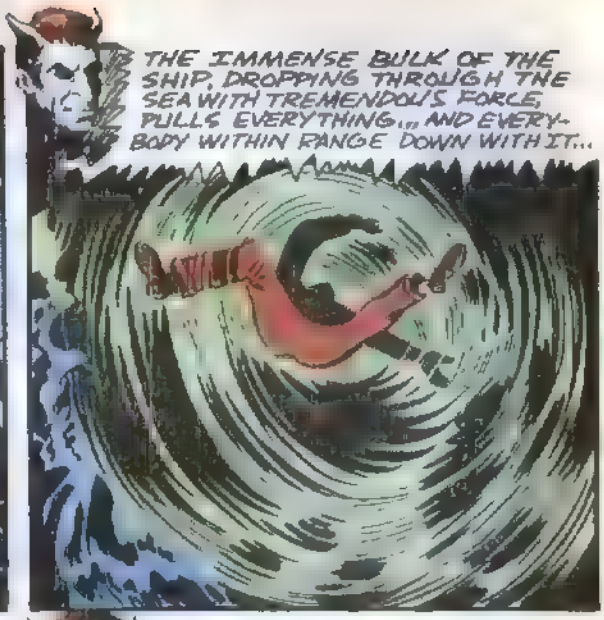

KA-WHOMP
BUT TIME... AND ETERNITY.. HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF REMEMBERING THINGS TO THOSE WHO NEED REMINDING FOR BRIAN THERE WAS THE LAST BREATH OF A MOTHER ON A SINKING SHIP. THUS, WHEN WAR BROKE OUT. THE ONE THEY CALL WORLD WAR I....

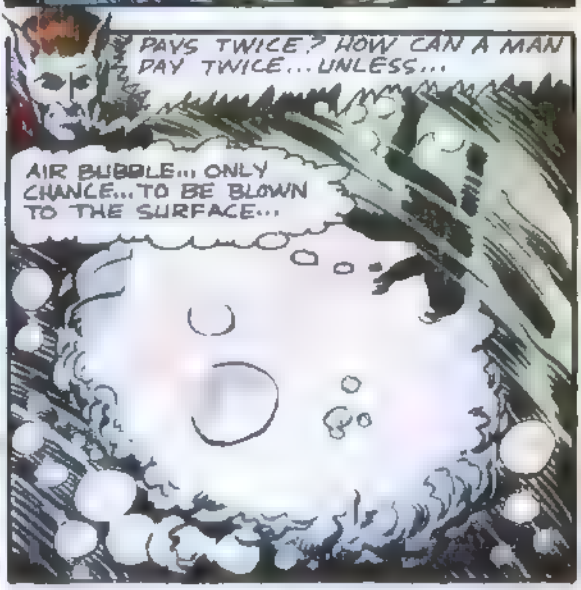
TENS OF THOUSANDS ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE. BRIAN CORPUS? NOT ON YOUR... HEH, HEH... LIFE! OR NIS EITHER! WHEN IT LOOKED AS IF AMERICA WOULD ENTER THE WAR... HE SHIPPED OUT FOR A NEUTRAL COUNTRY. FATE MIGHT SAY HIS CHOICE OF SHIPS WAS A STRANGE ONE...

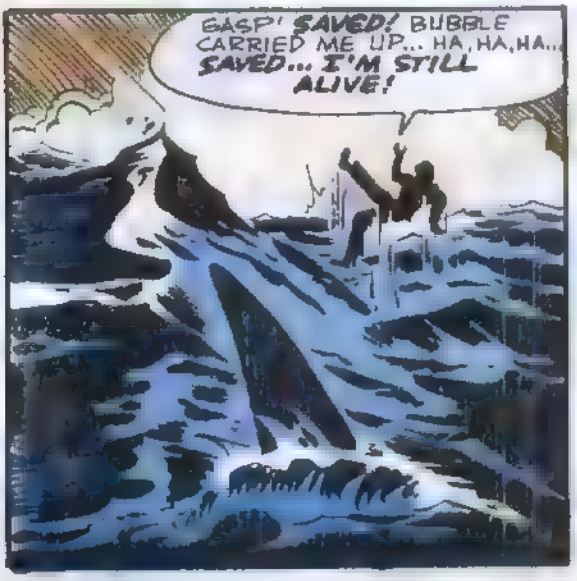
BUT THEN, WHO WAS TO KNOW WHAT A GERMAN U-BOAT HAD IN STORE FOR THIS SHIP! HEH, HEH, HEH!
I SAY, YOU DON'T SEEM A BIT AFRAID OF THE TALK THAT THERE MAY BE U-BOATS IN THE VICINITY. IT APPEARS YOU ARE A VERY [illegible] MAN!
YOU COULD SAY THAT... OR THAT THE SEA WILL NEVER GET ME. I WAS ON THE TITANIC!
THE TITANIC! GREAT SCOTT I SAY, HARRY, COME HERE. THIS CHAP WAS ON THE TITANIC! LOOKS AS IF WE'RE ALL SAFE, THIS CROSSING. LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE, AND ALL THAT ROT!
AND IF IT DOES,. I THINK I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE MYSELF!
YOU SOUND LIKE A VERY BRAVE MAN, SIR... VERY BRAVE INDEED!
THANK YOU... I MANAGE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
KABLOOOM

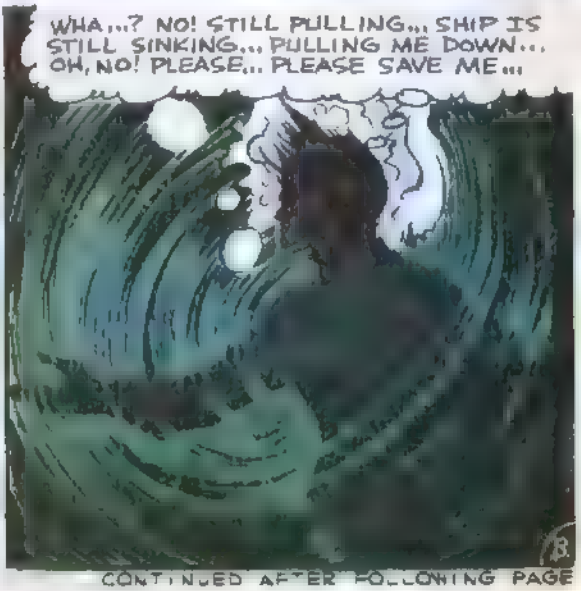

HELP ME.. PLEASE HELP ME.. I DON'T WANT TO DIE YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME PLEASE...TAKE CARE OF ME.. DON'T LET ME DIE!
GOOD GRIEF, MAN GET HOLD OF YOURSELF WE'RE NOT DEAD YET
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE...TAKE ME WITH YOU... SAVE ME... HELP ME!
HE'S GONE STARK OUT OF HIS MIND. HE'S HEALTHIER THAN I AM...AND HE JUST SITS THERE CRYING... GET ALONG MAN... WE'LL BE SAFE...
BWOOOOOM
AHHHHHHH!
AHHHHHHH!
LIGHTNING MAY NOT STRIKE TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE.., BUT ONE ICEBERG AND ONE TORPEDO DO, IN THE CASE OF BRIAN CORPUS WHO, AS PERHAPS FATE INTENDED.. IS NOW TOO CLOSE TO THE SINKING HULK...




THE IMMENSE BULK OF THE SHIP, DROPPING THROUGH THE SEA WITH TREMENDOUS FORCE, PULLS EVERYTHING... AND EVERY-BODY WITHIN RANGE DOWN WITH IT...







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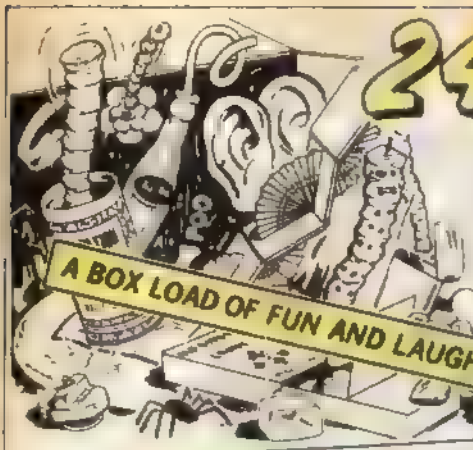

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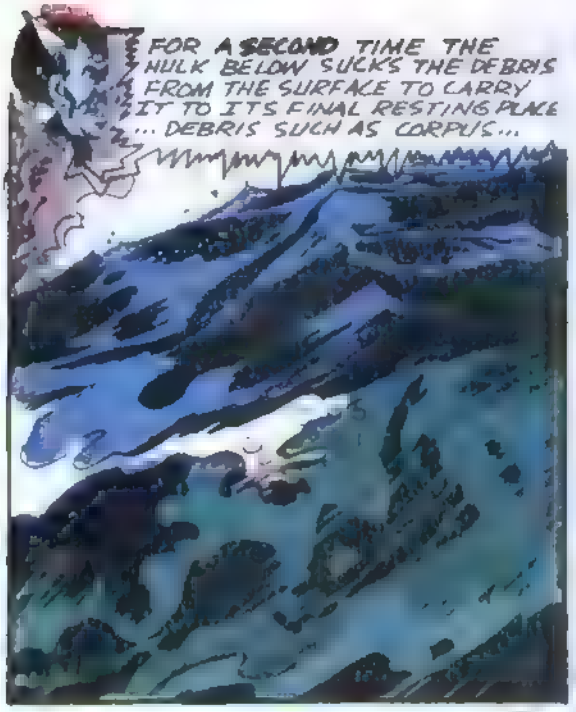

FOR A SECOND TIME THE HULK BELOW SUCKS THE DEBRIS FROM THE SURFACE TO CARRY IT TO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE ... DEBRIS SUCH AS CORPUS...

SHAPES... WHAT ARE THOSE SHAPES? I... I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE...

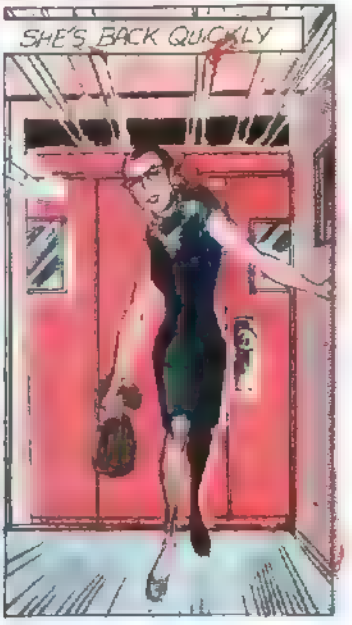
THE TITANIC!
THE TITANIC AND THE LUSITANIA WERE SUNK 3 YEARS AND HUNDREDS OF MILES APART. BUT FOR BRIAN CORPUS...AND THE WORLD HE BECAME A PART OF THE DAY THE ICEBERG STRUCK... TIME AND DISTANCE WERE NOTHING! HE PAID THE PRICE.. TWICE! HEH, HEH, HEH!
END

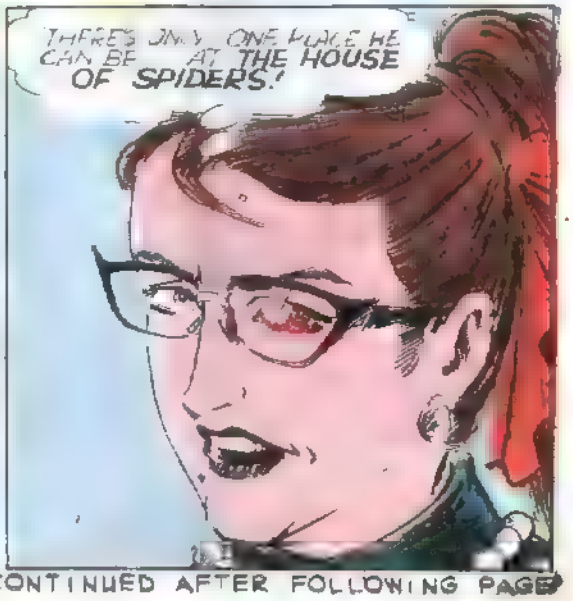
THE HOUSE OF SPIDERS
HEH HEH HEH!
THE HOUSE OF SPIDERS
SHUDDER
PERSONALLY I DETEST THE LITTLE THINGS
LARRY LARRY, I KNOW YOU'RE IN HERE
EDITOR : SAL GENTILE
STORY : JOE GILL
ART : SANHO KIM
B-1953

HMMM...
OH THAT ONE IS A BEAUTY, LARRY!
I'VE DEVELOPED A STRAIN OF GIANT SPIDERS
SPECIFICALLY FOR SF JOKES COME ON!!
DARLING THERE'S GOING TO BE A STORM!
WELL BE THERE IN A MINUTE
WELL? HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
UGH! IT'S HIDEOUS, I THINK IT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT
LOOK, DARLING A MALIGNATTE, VERY RARE THIS FAR NORTH!

THIS IS FANTASTIC ! THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS INFESTED WITH ARACHNIDA.
I KNOW SPIDERS AREN'T AS POISONOUS AS MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE DARLING BUT DO BE CAREFUL !
THIS DARK ROOM IS A LARRY, LOOK!
EASY, HONEY. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE
WHAT'S UP THERE ?
LARRY, IS THAT A ?
IT'S A SPIDER WEB BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS LARGE!

WHATEVER BUILT THIS WEB WAS OUCH!
WHAT HAP-PENED DARLING
SPIDER-BITE! THAT'S ABOUT THE FOURTH TIME TODAY
TERESA LOOK IT HOLDS ME!
JUST AS IF I'M A GIANT SPIDER!
LARR, GET AT THERE YOU MAY FALL!
LOOK AT HIM THAT AMAZING WEB ACTUALLY SUPPORTS HIS WEIGHT!
DID
DIZZY AND WEAK!
HELP ME BACK TO THE LAB, DARLING!
LEAN ON ME, LARRY!





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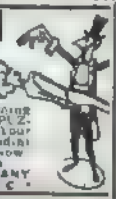
DO HOUDINI MAGIC!



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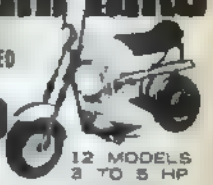

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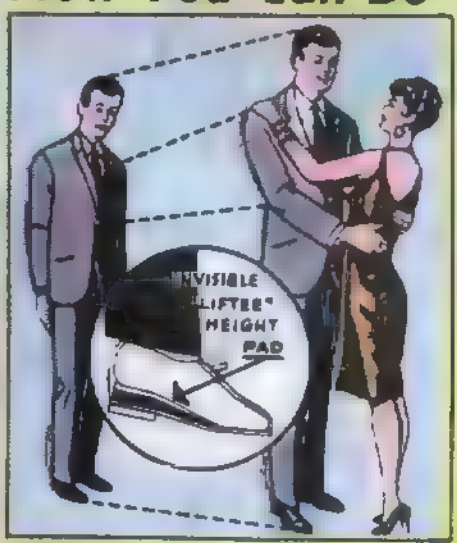

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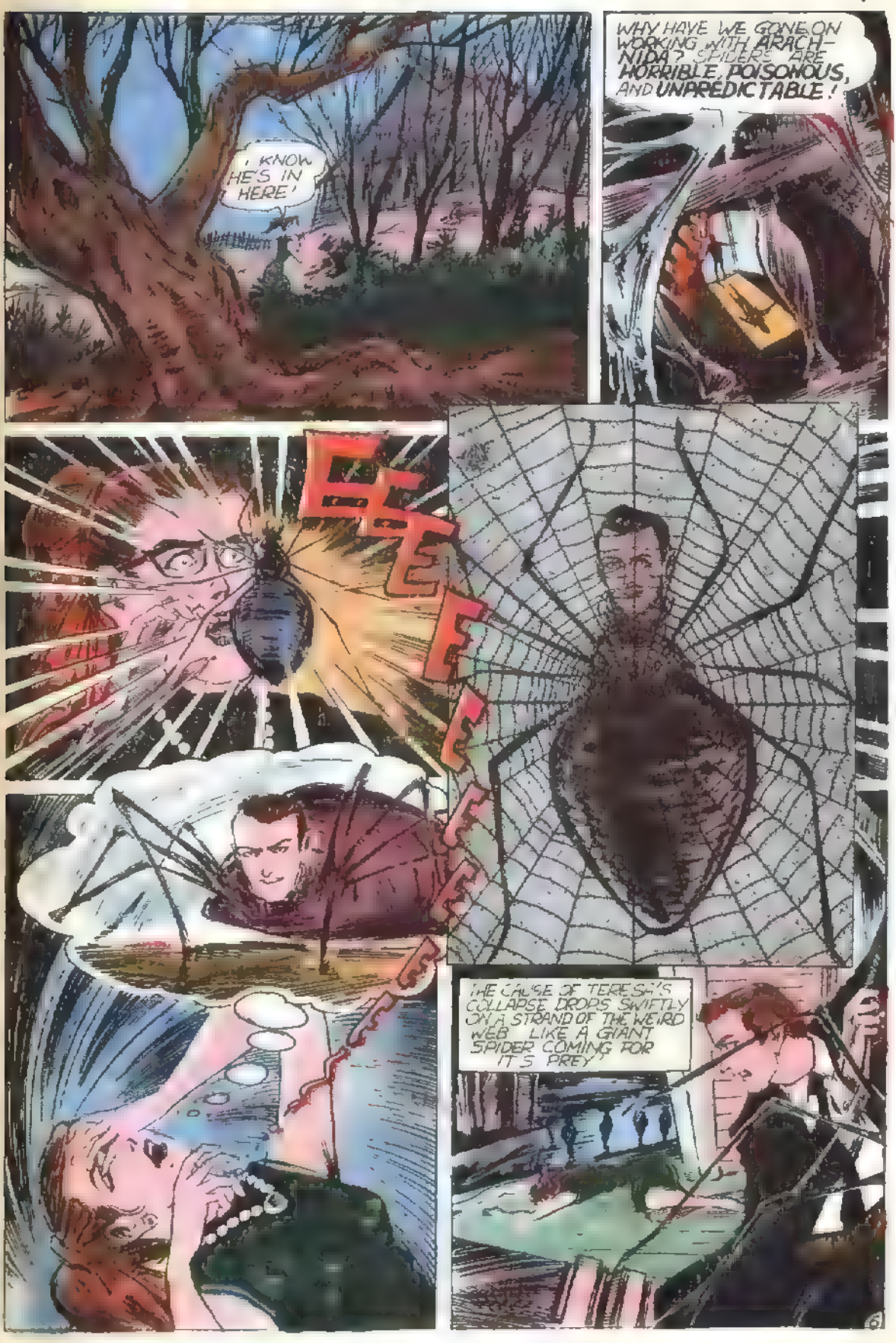
I KNOW HE'S IN HERE!
WHY HAVE WE GONE ON WORKING WITH ARACHNIDA? SPIDERS ARE HORRIBLE, POISONOUS, AND UNPREDICTABLE!
EEEEEEEE
THE CAUSE OF TERESA'S COLLAPSE DROPS SWIFTLY ON A STRAND OF THE WEIRD WEB LIKE A GIANT SPIDER COMING FOR IT'S PREY
6

L-LARRY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? Y-YOU'RE A SPIDER OR WERE OR YOUR BODY WAS OR. I DON'T KNOW
IT WAS NOTHING YOU MUST HAVE SUPER-IMPOSED THAT LITTLE SPIDER THERE NEAR THE DOOR. ON ME. CLIMBING ON THE GIANT WEB
SPIDER!
DARLING YOU'RE HAVING HALLUCINATIONS. I'M NOT A SPIDER
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU MAKE YOURSELF BEING EATEN UP BY YOUR GIANT SPIDER
NOT YOU, SILLY THERE'S ONE BEHIND YOU!
OH, SCAT I'VE HAD ENOUGH SPIDER BITES LATELY
SOMEBODY TIED MANILA ROPES UP THERE FOR SOME REASON. SPIDERS THEN WEAVED ORDINARY WEBS BETWEEN THE STRANDS THERE REALLY ISN'T A GIANT SPIDER WITH THE HEAD OF A MAN IN THERE
SO THEY EXIT LAUGHING WITH LARRY'S EXPLANATION IN HAND: MANILA ROPE HALLUCINATIONS NO GIANT SPIDERS
HEH HEH HEH VERY INTERESTING
THE END

Dear Mr. Dedd:

I now subscribe to your pernicious periodical which seems sort of odd since, when you were first known as "GHOSTLY TALES, formerly BLUE BEETLE," I, putting things nicely, hated your entrails (being that you have so few, there wasn't much to hate anyway). Seriously, even though at the time I disliked your magazine I kept watching and happily found a vast improvement in both art and story content in your more recent issues.

I have reached Nirvana with your nifty nightmares and of those in my possession my favorites remain numbers 63-64-70-71 with 69 being the worst bomb produced since your early days.

No. 70 was again one of the best you have ever done. "Pop Goes Popolos" had a great plot, using characters infrequently dealt with (chefs) and exceptional art by Tony Williams/Williamson/Williamsune (?). "Finders Keepers Losers Dead" featured excellend art by Steve Ditko, one of my favorite artists, and one with a happy ending, which is a bit welcome if only for a change of pace. Pat Boyette's fine artwork and the unique theme elevated the story "Buttom Button" from the level of most "but he died before he could reach you so how die he do it" tales and I enjoyed it immensely. I love Mr. Bache's work and the short DR. GRAVES story was nice but nothing special being just a filler, it usually never is. In my opinion, only one of these short M. T. GRAVES stories ranked with the quality of the standard tales: "Ghostly Wanderings" which appeared in GT #56. Did you ever stop and think, dead one, that you should petition the good doctor to reciprocate and print some of your short adventures in his maggoty mag?

So, Mr. Dedd, keep up the good work and best of sick to you and the ghoul group (you didn't expect me to say "best of health", I hope!)

Tom Prehoda

Well, Tom, thanx for all them kind words and it's a pleasure to get a fan letter from a gentleman of distinction and impeccable taste! We love your critique of issues 63-64-70-71 which you received with great cries of pleasure. All these things mark you as an intelligent human being with a keen mind and a discerning eye!

However!

Concerning your unkind, uncouth, ungentlemanly, uninformed, ignorant, tasteless etc. remarks about issue #69 .....you may be right!

Anyway, Tom, nice letter and we'll look forward to hearing from you again.

Dear Editor:

In the letter column of GHOSTLY TALES #70 you said, more or less, that the bigwigs at CHARLTON were about to decide to put out GHOSTLY TALES and I suppose DR. GRAVES eight times a year instead of six. I figured out that #70 went to press in March. I observed that GHOSTLY TALES came out in March, April, missed May, came out in June & July. So I think that the eight times a year started in March, am I right?

Now to analyze ish #70. "Pop Goes Popolos" was good in story and art. I am glad you have gotten hold of Tony Williams. I saw his art elsewhere before under a slightly different name. I was really glad when that fat egomaniac Popolos got his punishment from the avenging ghost. "Finders Keepers — Losers Dead!" had good art from Ditko the Great but the story wasn't much — I don't know what it was missing but it was missing something. "Button Button" was the best of the issue, story-wise. Art-wise, it was the worst. Now don't think I'm a Boyette-hater or anyming because I have seen work by him that I did like very much. That is why I would like to see him at his best every issue which I guess isn't possible. Everyone has bad days. I liked the story because it had an unexpected ending. When the hand was shown firing the gun on page 5, panel 2, I just thought the Captain had been wounded, and when he turned up where the General was, I thought either the guard had missed, or the Captain had somehow struggled ahead in spite of his wound, and the fact that he saved the world would be the point of the story. But when I found out that his ghost had pushed on to save the world, it really startled me! I always enjoy reading the letter column. One last thing — try to get Keep up the good work always and tell Mr. Dedd that he is one of my favorite corpses!

Yours truly,
Brad Cunningham

We don't agree with you about Mr. D, Brad, we think he's a stiff!

Firstly, in defense of a guy who doesn't need defending, Pat Boyette's art in #70 wasn't all that bad. It was a good competent job but any good comic mag yarn requires the joint efforts of a lot of people. The most important mating, of course, is between scripter and penciler. If the writer doesn't turn on the artist, if his conception of how the story should be told, differs radically from the artist's conception, then there's a strain to start with. This isn't a criticism of the writer of "Button," just an explanation of why it's possible for a fine illustrator to seem to have done less than his best at times. We believe "B-B" was an excellent job, however, so this cannot be construed as an apology for Pat's effort in #70.

However, everyone's entitled to an opinion, pally, so keep 'em comin'. We enjoyed your letter and we're only sorry we used a couple of 'longies' this time and didn't have room to run more letters from the rest of you ghouls! Maybe next time, huh?

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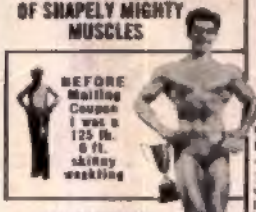

says JOHN SILL

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says Felipe Mendoza

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